

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 ACDA-10

IO-10 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /094 W

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R 241052Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1761

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 20143

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOB, TH

SUBJECT: KHUKRIT'S LATEST FIRESIDE CHAT

REF: FBIS BKK 231445 SEPT 75

1. ON SEPTEMBER 24 PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT GAVE THE LATEST OF HIS MONTHLY TV FIRESIDE CHATS. AS INDICATED IN REF, KHUKRIT COMMENTED ON THREE TOPICS. HE HAVE THE RAISON D'ETRE FOR THE MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET BILL, STRESSING THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE NEED TO UPGRADE THE POLICE FORCE TO BOLSTER INTERNAL SECURITY AND THE NEED FOR A STRONGER DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT IN LIGHT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS. HE EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON LAND REFORM. FINALLY, HE DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS DURING THE LATEST WAVE OF STRIKES. HE STRESSED THAT THESE OCCURRENCES WERE PART OF THE NORMAL PROCESS IN A DEMOCRACY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESOVLED THESE STRIKES WITHOUT BLOODSHED AND WITHOUT ANY MOVE WHICH WOULD ENDANGER DEMOCRACY.

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2. COMMENT: THIS WAS THE LATEST IN KHUKRIT'S MONTHLY TV FIRESIDE CHATS, WHICH HE SEES AS A VISIBLE SYMBOL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN ACTION. KHUKRIT WAS NOT UP TO PAR DURING THIS TELECAST. HE APPEARED TIRED AND LACKED HIS USUAL FIRE. ABSENT WAS HIS FAMOUS WIT WHICH HE SOMETIMES USES TO TAKE SARDONIC DIGS AT HIS OPPONENTS. BY LABELING THE BUDGET THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET HE MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PARLIAMENTARIANS TO VOTE AGAINST IT. BY BALANCING EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL REFORM WITH THE NEED FOR INTERNAL ORDER AND A STRONG DEFENSE FORCE, KHUKRIT TRIED TO DEFANG HIS CRITICS, WHO ACCUSE HIM OF BEING SOFT ON LAW AND ORDER, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SENDING SUBTLE HINTS TO THE ACTIVISTS THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE PATIENCE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CAN SHOW TOWARD THOSE WHO USE VIOLENCE IN A MANNER THAT WILL ENDANGER THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

MASTERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BUDGETS, NATIONAL SECURITY, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO20143  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750331-0472  
**From:** BANGKOK  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAR 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KHUKRIT'S LATEST FIRESIDE CHAT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, TH, (KHUKRIT PRAMOT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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